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Box 232
Davis, Oklahoma , 73030
January 4, 1967

Phone. Area 405
Em-9-3066

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland
20734

Dear Harold,

Thank you for your prompt delivery of Whitewash II.

I enjoyed the privilege of our telephone conversation and also the programs on WBBM, Chicago.

The demise of Ruby certainly complicates matters but perhaps not too seriously. By the way, you and Mr. Penn Jones, Jr., may be interested in an added fact to the string of deaths. A Mr. Harold Russell, an important witness mentioned in the REPORT and in several books critical of the REPORT with regard to the murder of Officer Tippit, died here in Davis, Oklahoma on July 28, 1965, of a very quick and unexpected heart attack.

Mr. Russell was a long time resident of Davis, Oklahoma, who just happened to be with the Reynolds used car outfit in Dallas and he with some others witnessed the scene of Tippit's murder.

Another "by the way" and a seemingly strange coincidence but on viewing the TV news and the inevitable scene of Jack Ruby killing Oswald,I was very cognizant of the fact that the scene where Oswald expresses great surprise on his visage apparently was deleted,i.e, the place where Oswald SEEMS to recognise Ruby but that up to the moment was merely a CONJECTURE on the part of my wife, me, and some others. Now, I'm convinced that we are now entering the era of Orwell's 1984 and people will henceforth be"vaporised" along with any pertinent evidence of their brief existence on our troubled planet. I saw the NBC and CBS versions of Ruby and Oswald and perhaps it was the ABC version which was so indelibly impressed on my mind. I missed the ABC version yesterday, Harold, could you check this out ? If the ABC version of yesterday does not contain this particular bit then, Brother, 1984 has already arrived a little prematurely. Another thing, in the immediate aftermath in the TV pictures of 1963 , a Dallas police officer was shown indicating his recognition of Jack Ruby and this particular young-looking officer did not seem to have the surprise and concern the situation warranted. Of course this wasn't shown at all yesterday. In these days of TV instant replays and stop actions in regard to televised football showing the IMMENSELY IMPORTANT action of an oversized hunk of meat catching or even MISSING a football, it is more than passing strange that the Ruby play didN'T warrant fuller treatment.

NO significant stop action, NO pooling, clever photo montage, and no real "poetry", learned philosophical observations such as a sports commentator renders after a field goal attempt!

Listen, Harold, might I suggest a ploy which on the face of it could seem silly?

Suppose one inserted ads in Texas, LOuisiana, Oklahoma and even Washington newspapers, to wit:

One hundred dollars paid for any photos, momentoes, taken with any cameras, or any verifiable information tending to prove or disprove Oswald's and other participation in the assassination of President Kennedy, and which have not been considered or noted in the general press or the Warren Report, archives, FBI documentation,etc.

One could rent a small office in Dallas for personal appearances of vitally important witnesses.

The reward to be made purposely small. A Small reward will often work better than a large one. But don't use the word "Reward".

One could offer a ~~reward~~ payment for any snapshots of the parade and crowd in the vicinity of the Texas Book Depository. A hundred or so such photos could reveal vital information on analysis. A negative should be asked for and obtained if possible to preclude clever montage efforts.

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One very important angle to be reaearched is the possiblity of:

1. Oswald from the very first was picked in the Marine Corps (to be surfaced later) as a potential double and to coin a term a "triple" agent,i.e, a participant in the secret service and also right-wing groups at the same time!

(or) 2. Oswald was sincere in his attempted defection to Soviet citizenry status but later was recruited to the gumshoe clubs.

(or)3. After engagement as a result of either of the two above routes, Oswald for money or to salvage his pride became inadvertently a Fall Guy for the crazed right-wingers in the DAllas area.

(or) 4. Oswald, whatever his route to his particular status, joined the right-wingers in a "conversational" plot (but Oswald did not really mean it in his instance) and the others went right ahead. He joined , say, secret service agents on a lower echelons (who were , nevertheless, subsequently protected by Papa Hoover who naturally would fight any attempts to besmirch the virgin purity of his disciples).

I know that you are in all probability aware of variations on the above theme, but it seems to me that this is the only manner which makes sense to me of carrying on the investigations. Prove Oswald an agent! Once that is done, the FBI, CIA, and the secret service, and the armed forces, and yes, the Dallas police, can the go back to the tasks of PROTECTING THE LIBERTIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE! It seems that for the past twenty-five years the paranoia of the FBI and the daily press has done untold damage to the psyche of the American people. Perhaps, some of this hurt is irreversible, but let us strive for relief anyway.

I'm a poor typist and in a hurry to get this off with an enclosed check for your book WHITEWASH II. If some of this seems incomprehensible apply a little interpolation and perhaps it will even make some sense.

In brief, I have been interested a long time in the Kennedy assassination story and I am profoundly disturbed over the implications to our way of life and liberties this all portends.

The resolution of the Dreyfus case in France saved French Democracy for some sixty years with a brief interval of Nazi occupation. Even today France is better because Count Esterhazy did not get away with the malarkey the French Officer Corps and Monarchists attempted to pull off.

In a way, Oswald may prove entirely innocent of even intent to conspire. If this proves to be so, the USA can resume the early promise of the Roosevelt years and the Kennedy era.

In some fashion, Mark Lane has rather preempted the role of Emile Zola, but what we need also and most emphatically are a number of Clarence Darrows, Voltaires, Lincoln Steffins, Upton Sinclairs, Mark Twains,

We need to:
"Crush the infamy"
"Expose the shame of cities"
"Free the innocent"
"Show the rotten and stink of the stockyards"
and let a new Captain Stormfield show the real side of 'Heaven'"

Forgive me those figures and quotes but I know of no other way to indicate my concern over the present course of events.

Would you indicate by return mail receipt of this letter for I seem also to be afflicted with the sicky malaise or paranoia of what Big Brother is up to. I think that you , too, are " on the list". So whether or not the gumshoe squad intercepts your mail or not, it would make me feel better to hear from you "real" soon.

Warm regards, and what do you know about those geese? Have any literature on them? Again, regards,

Sincerely,
Joe Zeleniak
Joe Zeleniak

P.S. Note the address label enclosed and comments

Harold, I'll type and write the address which you could cut out and paste on a package of books to the USSR.

The Russian system varies somewhat from ours.

Moscow, USSR
Literaturnaya Gazeta
A. Chakovskii, Editor-in-chief
Moskva K-51
Tsvetnoi bulvar, 30

Harold, write a short letter in English telling the editor of the contents. If you like you can tell them that a Russian speaking American colleague who gets his paper advised you to try this. Give him permission to print all or some of this on the regular rate he pays authors. But do tell him that he cannot send the money to you directly that you will in the near future go to the USSR and spend it there in the hotels, tours and in payment for books, clothes or even an appliances which you could take home. You could make this pay off handsomely eventually for as a writer you could obtain material for another book. It won't be as good as US dollars or the British pound sterling, but, hell,later on the value could be far greater. Incidentally, they could pirate your books WITHOUT your permission sometime anyway. So, you can't lose.

Also, should you want ~~and~~ an adventuresome colleague to help you spend it, maybe even $20,000, ...hard to eat that much caviar by yourself...why not take me along to help you spend it. A Russian speaking American like me could help carry the bags and do primitive secretarial work. But you don't even have to consider even this except that I'd like to get a card from you from Moscow, should you make it.

The resulting publicity could be well worht the effort.